Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

16. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *interalia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection, Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs. 93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore & Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Central Assistance will be provided to States for creation of STPF in remaining 10 Tiger Reserves in 2009-10.

Issues at global climate change talks

1678. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the major issues on which there is a lack of consensus at the global climate change talks and what is our position on those issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the major issues that are currently being discussed in pursuance of the Bali Action Plan relate to shared vision for long-term cooperative action including a global goal for emission reduction, mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance. Under the Kyoto Protocol, the negotiations are taking place with a view to determine the emission reduction targets for Annex I Parties to the Convention during the second commitment period (post 2012). Parties are negotiating on these issues and are expected to reach an agreed outcome at the 15th Conference of Parties scheduled in Copenhagen in December 2009.

India has argued at these negotiations that the developed country Parties must take actions in accordance with the principle of equity and "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities" in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Such actions of the developed (Annex I Parties to the Convention) countries should include deep and ambitions targets for emission reduction in the second commitment period (Post-2012) of the Kyoto Protocol.

Habitat for big cats

1679. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1,411 big cats are left in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to give habitat for their sustenance in each State, especially in Andhra Pradesh forest areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per the findings of the recent All India tiger estimation in 2008 using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively, as indicated in the given Statement (*See* below). The new findings are based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which are not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks. The said findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of the 17 tiger States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(c) An area of 29284.762 sq. km. has been notified by 15 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which also includes an area of 2527 sq.km. pertaining to the Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh. Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, funding support is given to tiger States, including Andhra Pradesh, for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves.

Statement

Forest occupancy and population estimates of tiger as per the refined methodology

State	Tiger km^2	Tiger Numbers		
		No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
1	2	3	4	5
Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex				
Uttarakhand	1901	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	2766	109	91	127
Bihar	510	10	7	13
Shivalik-Gangetic	5177	297	259	335
Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex				
Andhra Pradesh	14126	95	84	107
Chhattisgarh	3609	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	15614	300	236	364
Maharashtra	4273	103	76	131
Orissa	9144	45	37	53

1	2	3	4	5
Rajasthan	356	32	30	35
Jharkhand*	1488	Not Assessed		
Central Indian	48610	601	486	718
Western Ghats Landscape Complex				
Karnataka	18715	290	241	339
Kerala	6168	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	9211	76	56	95
Western Ghats	34094	412	336	487
North East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains				
Assam*	1164	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	1685	14	12	18
Mizoram*	785	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal*	596	10	8	12
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	4230	100	84	118
Sunderbans	1586	Not Assessed		
Total Tiger Population		1411	1165	1657

* Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

** Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100 km^2.

Pollution of Ramganga river

†1680. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the place from where Ramganga river originates and the place at which it merges in the river Ganges;

(b) whether Government is aware that the water of the river Ramganga has become very polluted and if so, the measures being taken to check the same;

(c) whether thousands of cattle die and flora gets destroyed every year due to the polluted water of the river; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.